

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Michael W. Johnson  
Application No.: 09/880615  
Filed: June 13, 2001  
For: STENT DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEM  
Examiner: Jermie E. Cozart  
Group Art Unit: 3726

Box RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Docket No.: S63.2N-6531-US03

## AMENDMENT

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed March 13, 2003. A Request for Continued Examination is filed herewith the Amendment. Please amend the application as follows:

## In The Claims:

Please amend claim 23 and 32 as follows:

C1  
23. (Thrice amended) A method of manufacturing a stent comprising the steps of:  
providing a tube, the tube characterized by a longitudinal axis, having at least two different  
longitudinally spaced regions of different predetermined physical characteristics, and  
subsequently cutting a stent from the tube.

C2  
32. (Thrice amended) A method of manufacturing a stent comprising the steps of:  
providing a tube having at least two different longitudinally spaced regions of different  
predetermined physical characteristics; and subsequently, cutting a plurality of openings in the  
tube to form a stent.

## REMARKS

In the Final Office Action dated October 9, 2002 claims 23, 25, 26, 29, 30, 32, 34, and 35 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Yan (5,843,172). Claims 23, 24, 27-30, 32, 33, and 36-40 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over